

American dream, and the estate tax tears that fabric apart. This punitive tax inflicts great harm on the hard-working families of America. The estate tax costs small business owners thousands of hours in manpower and millions of dollars in legal counsel. It is time to eliminate the estate tax.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to prioritize the quick and permanent abolition of the Federal estate tax in order to accelerate our economic recovery and foster a greater environment for business and rural development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1630

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRANDON M. STYER, U.S. ARMY, OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Private First Class Brandon M. Styer of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

On October 15 of this year, Brandon lost his life from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

Brandon exhibited a willingness and enthusiasm to serve and defend his country by joining the United States Army. He understood what it means to live a life with purpose. He served a cause greater than himself. He served the cause of liberty. He gave his life so that we might be safer.

Brandon told his father that he loved the camaraderie and excitement of serving in the Army. He enlisted just last year, his senior year at Conestoga Valley High School. Upon graduation, Brandon completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and

Fort Benning, Georgia. He then was transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado, for additional training.

In March of 2009, Brandon deployed to Iraq for 7 weeks before being transferred to Afghanistan. Assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, Fourth Engineer Battalion as a combat engineer, Brandon worked to dismantle, remove, and destroy improvised explosive devices. The 569th MAC Company has a storied history of participating in campaigns in World War II and Vietnam and, more recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. It is entirely fitting that Brandon joined their ranks.

As an exceptional young man, Brandon was determined to serve our country and keep his fellow soldiers safe from roadside bombs. It is tragic that one of these bombs claimed his life.

Brandon was also a noble and selfless friend and family man, a compassionate son, brother, and uncle. He leaves behind a family proud of all that he accomplished throughout his distinguished life and career in the military. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom.

Brandon earned a number of awards throughout his brief career in the Army, which demonstrates his professionalism and his outstanding ability as a soldier. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and Bar, and the Weapons Qualification Badge.

Posthumously, Brandon received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

May God grant to Brandon's family the peace that surpasses all understanding. Our prayers and most heartfelt gratitude go out to them, and I offer them my deepest condolences.

I am humbled by the dedicated service and sacrifice of their loved one.

Brandon joins the revered ranks of the many thousands of men and women throughout American history who have gone before him in battle to secure the freedom of the people of United States of America and people around the world.

He is an inspiration to us all.

AMERICANS DESERVE MORE THAN OVER-THE-TOP RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in recent floor speeches and in numerous media appearances, some Members of Congress continue to repeat the mis-

taken idea that a significant number of people will die automatically because of lack of access to health insurance. Now, as Franklin Roosevelt said, "Repetition does not transform a lie into truth." The American people deserve better than this kind of rhetoric. The American people deserve a Congress that can work together to find solutions to our most pressing problems.

This argument is based upon a questionable study conducted by biased researchers, inaccurate characterizations, and faulty ideas. Oftentimes these Members quote from a Harvard study, which estimates that 45,000 deaths per year in the United States are associated with the lack of health insurance. What they neglected to tell you was that the two authors of this study, Dr. Himmelstein and Dr. Woolhandler, are cofounders of the Physicians for a National Health Program. And what do they support? This program supports government-backed, single-payer health coverage.

In fact, Dr. Woolhandler testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee, where I serve on the Health Subcommittee, on June 24. What did he testify on? On the absolute need, in his opinion, for a single-payer system. So he is totally biased. This report reflects his demand and his desire for a one-payer system. It's clear that this study was conducted by researchers who knew what they wanted the outcome to show before they even conducted the study.

Furthermore, this study used questionable methodology to reach its conclusion. According to analysis by John Goodman of the National Center for Policy Analysis, the authors of this Harvard study "interviewed the uninsured only once and never saw them again. A decade later, the researchers assumed that participants were still uninsured"—this is after 10 years they assumed it—"and, if they died in the interim, lack of insurance was blamed as one of the causes." Obviously, that's faulty logic.

Yet, like unemployment, uninsurance happens to many people for short periods of time. It happens to a lot of people. Most people who are uninsured again regain insurance within 1 year, yet they forgot about this statistic. The authors of this study did not track what happened to the insurance status of the subjects over the decade examined, what medical care they received, or even the causes of their death. How can they make those claims?

In Massachusetts, for example—the public option here in Congress is patterned after Massachusetts. It has the highest percentage of its residents insured in the United States at 97 percent. We can see the effects of a government-run health care system by looking at Massachusetts. According to a 2009 survey by Merritt Hawkins & Associates, there is a 63-day wait to see a family medical doctor in Boston, the longest of the 15 cities surveyed. This